

Police use online searches as evidence amid privacy debate

BY MARK SCOLFORO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Criminal investigators hoping to develop suspects in difficult cases have been asking Google to reveal who searched for specific information online, seeking “reverse keyword” warrants that critics warn threaten the privacy of innocent people.

Unlike traditional search warrants that target a known suspect or location, keyword warrants work backward by identifying internet addresses where searches were made in a certain window of time for particular terms, such as a street address where a crime occurred or a phrase like “pipe bomb.”

Police have used the method to investigate a series of bombings in Texas, the assassination of a Brazilian politician and a fatal arson in Colorado.

It’s not a wild guess by investigators to conclude that people are using Google searches in all manner of crimes, as the company’s search engine has become the main gateway to the internet and users’ daily lives increasingly leave online traces. The potential value to investigators of the data Google collects is obvious in cases with no suspect, such as the search for Nancy Guthrie’s kidnapper. The legal tension between the need to solve crimes quickly and the U.S. Constitution’s Fourth Amendment protections against overly broad searches was at the heart of a recent Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision that upheld the use of a reverse keyword warrant in a rape investigation. Privacy advocates see it as



Alastair Grant

The Google logo is displayed at their offices on Nov. 1, 2018, in London.

giving police “unfettered access to the thoughts, feelings, concerns and secrets of countless people,” according to an amicus brief filed in the Pennsylvania appeal by the

American Civil Liberties Union, the Internet Archive and several library organizations.

In response to written questions about the warrants, Google provided an emailed

statement: “Our processes for handling law enforcement requests are designed to protect users’ privacy while meeting our legal obligations. We review all legal demands for legal

validity, and we push back against those that are overbroad or improper, including objecting to some entirely.”

of a woman in 2016 on a remote cul-de-sac outside Milton, a small community in the center

SEE POLICE/PAGE B8

LEGAL NOTICE

The Harrison County Fiscal Court will be receiving sealed bids for roadside grass mowing along county roadways. Specifications may be picked up at the Harrison County Judge’s office. Bids will be opened on March 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Harrison County Courthouse Community Room. The bids must be in the County Judge’s office by noon on date of bid opening. The court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Jason Marshall
Harrison County
Judge Executive

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MARCH 2, 2026

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Unit #35, 36 Charles Cole
Unit #37 William Patterson
Unit #38 Eli Carter
Unit #49 Davetta Hisle
Unit #52 Robbie Fryman
Unit #56 Donna Whitaker
Unit #79 Tiffany Newman
Unit #84 Robert Stanfield

Jason Marshall
Harrison County
Judge Executive

LEGAL NOTICE

The Harrison County Fiscal Court will be receiving sealed bids for bush hog mowing at Flat Run Veterans Park. Specifications can be obtained from the County Judge’s office. Bids will be opened March 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Harrison County Courthouse Community Room. Bids must be in the County Judge’s office by Noon, March 10, 2026. The Court reserves the right to accept or reject any/or all bids.

Jason Marshall
Harrison County
Judge Executive

LEGAL NOTICE

The Harrison County Fiscal Court will be receiving sealed bids for road oil and stone delivered to the Harrison County Road Barn for a one-year period from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Specifications can be obtained from the County Judge’s office. Bids will be opened March 10, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Harrison County Courthouse Community Room. Bids must be in the County Judge’s office by Noon, March 10, 2026. The Court reserves the right to accept or reject any/or all bids.

Jason Marshall
Harrison County
Judge Executive

LEGAL NOTICE

This is an attempt to locate and contact the **Unknown Spouse of ALLEGRA FRAZIER SCHAWE-LANE**, regarding a legal matter presently pending before the Harrison Circuit Court which may affect her legal and/or financial interests in certain real property located at 211 North Main Street, Cynthiana, Ky 41031. Anyone with any knowledge of the whereabouts of the **Unknown Spouse of ALLEGRA FRAZIER SCHAWE-LANE** please contact my office immediately located at 109 Joe B. Hall Court, Cynthiana, Kentucky, 41031 or by telephone (859) 234-6439. Sam W. Arnold, III
Warning Order Attorney
Harrison Circuit Court
Case #26-C1-00037

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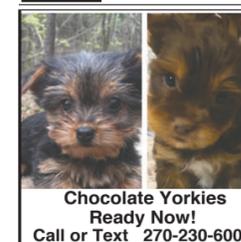
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